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No. 5

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OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Missionary Journal

PUBLISHED BY THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF
THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH
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AT 500 CATHARINE STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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OLIVE TREES

A Monthly Journal devoted to Missionary Work in the Reformed Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

VOL. XXXI

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EDITORIALS

Special attention is called this month to the very interesting account by Mrs. Ferguson of her visit to the Southern Mission, to the timely article by Dr. Willson on the Authority of God, and to the memorial sketches of the lives of Mrs. Balph, Miss Walker and Mrs. Robb.

The whole church will mourn with Dr. Balph in the death of his wife, and the missionaries in Syria will feel her loss very deeply. Mrs. Balph was a woman of exceptional qualities, and she did much for the comfort and happiness of her fellow-laborers in Syria.

The most interesting consideration concerning the situation in Syria at the present time is just what effect the war is having, and is going to have on the work there. Fears were held on the part of missionaries now at home that the entrance of the United States into the war would result in violence against the missionaries. Reports, however, so

far as received, are reassuring. We believe the missionaries are not in personal danger. They may yet possibly be interned, which would be serious enough in Turkey at the present time; but there is confidence that they will not suffer personal violence. The success of the British armies has probably reacted in restraining the Turks rather than in increasing their lawlessness, and the prospect is that eventually the Turkish power in Syria will be broken.

The Foreign Board some time ago authorized the State Department to cable instructions to the commanders of the American vessels in the Mediterranean to bring out all the missionaries who would come, in case they themselves were allowed to land at the port of Beirut. They have not yet been allowed to land, and probably will not be; but if any opportunity opens up the missionaries will be brought out to a place of safety.

A VISIT TO THE SOUTHERN MISSION

By MRS. W. O. FERGUSON.
Oakdale, Ill.

In accordance with Presbytery's appointment to visit the Selma Congregation and Rev. S. Kingston's invitation to Mr. Ferguson to assist at Communion and the kind invitation of Dr. and Mrs. G. A. Edgar to both of us to visit in their home, it was our privilege to spend two weeks at the Southern Mission. Hoping to convey some idea of the work done there, to others who may be interested, I shall endeavor to tell something of our impressions.

After a twenty-four hour journey and considerable delay we reached Selma at 1 o'clock A. M. Thursday, January 4th, and were met by Mr. Kingston and Dr. and Mrs. Edgar, and conducted to the latter's home. Having slept soundly for a few hours we woke to realize that we were, indeed, in the sunny South, for the sun was shining brightly, the grass on the lawns was green and the early spring flowers in bloom. Crossing the street, after a hurried breakfast, we found ourselves really in Knox Academy, of which we had heard so much, and made our way at once to the chapel on the second floor, where teachers and pupils were already assembled. Slipping into back seats we were soon listening to the chapel exercises which mark the beginning of each day's work.

The singing of the Psalm selections, into which the nearly five hundred pupils enter heartily with the sweet voices characteristic of their race, was well worth hearing. Then after listening to a portion of Scripture read by Dr. Edgar, all joined, from the tiny tots of the primary grade to the young men and women of the High School, in repeating the Lord's prayers. As this was Thursday morning we next

heard several of the grades recite the Bible verses and Catechism, questions learned during the week. On Friday morning the remainder of the grades recited their portions. As the pupils commit very readily, they learn a large portion of God's Word during the year. Our regret is that all the school children of our country have not the privilege of attending schools where the Bible is a part of the regular course of study. After singing another selection from the Psalms the grades were dismissed and marched to their rooms in an orderly way.

During our stay we began to feel very much at home in Knox Academy, and to consider teachers and pupils as personal friends. As we visited the class rooms and marked the earnest devotion of the teachers and their happiness in working for the Master in this field, we were led to wonder why there should be any difficulty in securing teachers in the Covenantant church for the Southern Mission. It is certainly a splendid opportunity for missionary training to those who look forward to work in the foreign field, or to those who wish to serve a needy field at home. Lack of room is likely soon to become a serious difficulty; several of the rooms are so crowded now that two or three extra rooms and teachers could be well used. Knox's reputation for thoroughness of instruction and the desire for religious instruction is such that its roll is always full. It has also the only high school course for colored students in Selma. The industrial departments are attractive, as well, and are doing good work along several lines.

We also visited the school at East Selma, where Miss Sophie Kingston and Miss Laura May Kingston are doing splendid work. There we listened again to the recitation of Bible verses and Catechism and were present during a part of the program of the mothers' meeting, by which Miss Kingston is seeking to still further

extend the Mission work in that vicinity.

Another day we drove out four miles into the country to the Pleasant Grove School, which is most efficiently taught by Mrs. Kynett. It is well named and affords opportunity for a large number of country children who would be without school advantages altogether if it were not for this school. Some of them walk four miles morning and evening in order to be in school. Mr. Kynett lives on and works the farm owned by the Board, and is trying to help the other farmers of the vicinity to better methods of farming. The school is located close beside the Kynett home and the farm is well situated for practical demonstrations. In another year Mr. Kynett's son, a student in the Agricultural Department at Tuskegee, will have completed his course and be ready to assist this work. One of the greatest needs of the South is the teaching of better farming methods, and any equipment along this line could be well used.

Another school visited was the Valley Creek School, which is no longer kept up by the board but by special subscriptions, and is taught by Miss Ware, Mrs. Kingston having charge of the Sabbath School on Sabbath. The attendance at this school is small partly on account of a number of families going North this winter, as they are doing all over the South. On account of the failure of the cotton crop last summer there has been great hardship, especially in the country districts, and over sixty thousand had already left Alabama to seek better opportunities in other sections of the country.

The Sabbath School on Sabbath, of which there is the regular morning session and another afternoon session, gives opportunity to every scholar of the academy to be present. In fact, pupils who have not been present at one session of the Sabbath School are required to remain after school on

Monday evening. This insures a large attendance at Sabbath School and is another advantage of the Mission School over the Sabbath Schools of our other congregations.

The Selma Congregation is interesting and has a number of devoted members. We felt it, indeed, a privilege to be present at the Communion services on Sabbath after the usual preparatory services. All the services were well attended and on Sabbath some visitors were present. The sermon in the morning was preached by Mr. Ferguson, his text being "Behold the Lamb of God." The words of institution were explained by Rev. Kingston, and the table address was given by Dr. Edgar. In his remarks, Mr. Kingston referred to the members of the congregation whom he had known during his nineteen years' pastorate who had gone on before and were now in the presence of their Saviour. Since this Communion occasion, we have learned, that just five weeks later on another Sabbath morning, one who was then present and one of the most faithful members, Mrs. Jamison, was called home. Our sympathy goes out to the congregation in their bereavement and especially to the daughter left to mourn.

The Wednesday evening prayer meetings are better than some we have seen. The Young People's meeting is very good and attracts some from other denominations. We have learned lately that a young man who was an attendant at Young People's meetings has united with the congregation, coming from the Baptist denomination, also another young man on profession. This is very encouraging.

In Knox Academy the seventh and eighth grades and the High School have their Young People's meetings on Friday afternoons, once in two weeks, under the supervision of their respective teachers. It was our privilege to be present in the meeting held by the seventh and eighth grades,

taught by Miss Hayes. Every pupil took an active part, either answering a question on the topic or offering prayer. The meeting was most reverently conducted throughout.

The account of our visit would be incomplete without the mention of two very delightful social affairs. On Thursday evening of our second week at the Mission the teachers from the North, Dr. and Mrs. Edgar, Mr. and Mrs. Kingston and ourselves were entertained by the Senior Class in the Girls' Industrial Building, presided over by Miss Fowler. A fine four-course dinner was prepared and served by the class who demonstrated their mastery of this most interesting branch of Domestic Science. The next evening the same party and a few others were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Allison, members of the Selma Congregation, in their pleasant home at another fine dinner. On several evenings we dined at the teachers' home, where dwells a very congenial and happy family of teachers, a band of consecrated women.

Before leaving the South we were urged by our Selma friends to visit Tuskegee Institute, ninety miles east. As we made the journey, passing through a section of country which appeared very unproductive, we wondered how the colored people living in the miserable little cabins all along the way, were able to secure even a very poor living. However, as we neared Tuskegee a marked difference was apparent in the neat cottages and the model school buildings. The influence of the Institute seemed to reach out through the surrounding country, showing that the ideals of industry and better homes are effective.

On reaching the school we were most courteously treated, being conducted from the station to the registration building, where we met some of the men and women in charge, and were assigned to one of the pleasant guest rooms in Tantum Hall, one of the girls' dormitories. It was not long

until Mr. Christopher Kynett, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kynett, of Selma congregation and a former Knox student, appeared with carriage and driver to conduct us over the extensive grounds of the Institute, where all branches of industry, from architecture to tailoring for the boys, and from hospital training in a completely equipped hospital with thirty student nurses, to millinery for the girls, is taught. Over seventeen hundred students are in attendance, each one of whom masters a trade in addition to the Academic work, which may be taken in either day or night school.

The buildings are all models for equipment, especially the Academic building, where each room is beautiful.

Preparation was being made for the entertainment of the Farmers' and Workers' Conference, which meets yearly at that season and affords opportunity for training and education to the colored farmers who come, some on special trains even from other States.

Our stay at Tuskegee was short, and we did not see any distinctively religious work, but were assured that it is not lacking. There is a fine chapel building, where religious services are held in addition to the regular chapel exercises of the school. In the churchyard surrounding the chapel is the grave of Booker T. Washington. As yet no monument marks the spot, but as one views the beautiful grounds and buildings no better monument to its founder seems needed than the school which has influenced so many lives, and will continue to contribute to the uplift of the race to which he belonged and to which he was so devoted.

As we met Mrs. Washington and other noble men and women connected with the administration of the school we were led to a high appreciation of the talents and possibilities of the race, a large part of which is yet in a

condition little better than the slavery they endured so long.

The need of the South is certainly urgent, and the colored race is still largely dependent on the North for uplift.

Surely the Covenanter Church should make the most of her opportunity to help in this great work. Prayers, workers and money are needed. So many offered their lives for the emancipation of the race, surely we can each give something for its further uplift.

THE AUTHORITY OF GOD.

The March number contains an address from *Men and Missions*, the organ of the Laymen's Missionary Association. It contains persuasives to tithe-giving, and introduces by way of analogy Sabbath-keeping; and does away for both of these the obligation to a Divine law. We quote:

"Let us lay aside at the outset all legal ideas. There is no such thing as the law of the tithe. There is a principle of the tithe. Let us dismiss from our minds once and for all every legalistic and statutory idea in the Kingdom of God. The wrong of committing murder does not consist in the fact that the ten Commandments forbid it. The ten Commandments forbid it because it is wrong. Right and wrong lie on fundamental foundations beneath statutes. They are right and wrong, not because God says so, but because of God's character." . . . "Just so the observance of the Sabbath day does not rest for us upon the Fourth Commandment; it would be just as valid and real to us today if we had never had any decalogue at all." . . . It is the easiest thing in the world for a man who does not deal with God in the matter of obligation as he does with his fellows, to find that he has not been giving God his due."

We are constrained without quoting further, to characterize this "higher" doctrine as dangerous and misleading,

even in the teaching of one as well known as Robert E. Speer. There is much of this writing and teaching, especially as regards Sabbath-keeping, and the bonds have been loosened. As to the Sabbath, it is said by him: "We are often hard put to give our Scriptural grounds for the change. If you rest it on any legalistic grounds, the Old Testament principle is clear—the seventh day. Why did the Christians swing around to the first? First, the memories of the resurrection; second, there was the feeling. Perhaps I may not have the seventh day this week, I will make sure that God has his day before anybody else. The first I will give to him." (page 60).

Now, first of all, the writer of all this "doctrine" is a Presbyterian, is one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions. We turn then for ourselves as well as for him, to the Shorter Catechism: "What do the Scriptures principally teach? The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man. What doth the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us? The preface to the Ten Commandments teacheth us, that because God is the Lord, and our God and our Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all of his Commandments." It is not necessary for me to copy out what answers are given as to the Fourth Commandment.

But back of the Westminster Standards we have the sure word to which we do well to take heed. Yes, God is our Father. "Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." The Apostle writes: "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Here is parental authority. We have the Fifth Commandment, the commandment with promise. The 119th Psalm has this word of God's servant: "O how love I thy law! It is my study all the day." Yet the writer says: "Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept

thy word." The Lord had chastened him. Samuel the prophet rebuked Saul: "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rains." We are told that Nadab and Abihu died before the Lord, and Moses said to their father: "This is it that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace." The authority as well as the love of God shines out in his Word. Our blessed Lord said: "Not my will, but thine be done," and we are told: "He learned obedience." The more we love God, the more we shall delight to do his will, but in all we do in this, our present imperfect state, we need to keep ever in mind the authority of God over us. He rules this sinful world which so often suffers, as now, under his righteous judgments.

D. B. WILLSON.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

DOES CHRIST AND COUNTRY NEED ANY OF OUR SONS?

From a Letter by Mrs. Kennedy.

Sabbath evening I was down, as usual, at the Y. M. C. A. A young Scotch boy of 22 came to me and said, "six months ago I promised to give you my picture and I have brought it to you now." I had forgotten the circumstances, but I was pleased to get the picture and saw at once the boy was in trouble and wanted to talk. I helped him along as best I could till he got started on what he really wanted to say. I must tell you his story in brief. It taught me a lesson I will not soon forget. The boy's story was this. His father, to begin with, was killed in the Boer war. There were five sons in the home. When this war broke out the mother said to her five sons, "Well, my lad-

dies, your country is in need of you and you must all go." "We all went. I was but twenty then. The five of us were sent to Gallipoli. We had some hard fighting there and my four brothers were killed. I saw them all die and I held the hands of two of them as they breathed their last. It was all too much for me to see the four of them go. I have been the most of the time since then in the hospital and I wanted to go home as I am the only one left, the youngest, and my mother's favorite." I said surely the authorities will allow you to go for I have known cases where two or three had been killed and one remaining was allowed to go home and was given work in a place of safety. He said, "It is not the military that will not let me go but my mother. She says so long as my country needs me I must stay at my post. I have been put on the permanent base here and I must bide my time and continue to do my bit till the end."

CONVENTION SLOGAN.

The thirty-second annual convention of the W. M. S., of Pittsburgh Presbytery, will be held May 22 and 23, in the First Beaver Falls Church, Beaver Falls, Pa.

One of the features of the coming convention at Beaver Falls will be the *Magazine Rally*. Our slogan: OLIVE TREES in every Covenanter Home. Our Request: That each congregation send at least FIVE NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS. Delegates to report at the Rally Hour.

"If you read you will know,
If you read you will pray,
If you read you will give."

"More than Conquerors Through Him that Loved Us"



MRS. M ARGARET S. ROBB

IN MEMORIAM

The L. M. S., of Topeka Congregation, wish to place on record their high appreciation of Mrs. Margaret S. Robb, who passed away January 16, 1917. Mrs. Robb had been a member of our society most of the time since its organization, and as long as health and strength permitted was most active in the work. Always pleasant and cheerful, quiet and unassuming in manner, yet none came in contact with her but were impressed with her remarkable personality. Isa. 41: 10 was a promise that had meant much to her in her life and she seemed to have taken it at its full value, for her quiet trust and confidence in God was an inspiration to all who knew her. Her intimate friends often said of her, "she is a wonderful woman." We miss her presence among us, but we are thankful to God for the influence of her life while with us.

"Being dead she yet speaketh."

MRS. J. W. CARSON,

MRS. A. WYLIE,

MRS. T. B. BOYLE,

Committee.



MRS. J. M. BALPH

A MISSIONARY CALLED HOME.

Mrs. J. M. Balph, of our Syrian Foreign Mission, died at her home, 2336 Bedford avenue, Pittsburgh, on April 2, 1917. The funeral services took place in the Pittsburgh church on Wednesday, April 4, in the presence of a great many friends. So large an audience as that which assembled on this occasion, on a weekday and in the forenoon, was a remarkable expression of esteem for the character and work of this departed friend, and also a plain indication of the unifying and deep-seated interest of our Covenanter people in the great work of foreign missions. Rev. J. Boyd Tweed, pastor of the Beaver Falls congregation, in which Mrs. Balph held her membership, read the 90th Psalm, and prayer was offered by Dr. R. J. G. McKnight. The praise service was led by Mr. R. M. Steele. A telegram to Dr. Balph was read from Rev.

Samuel Edgar, of our Syrian Mission, who is now at Princeton. It said: "Our warmest sympathy with you in your sorrow. In Mrs. Balph we, too, have lost a real friend; our mission circle a fervent intercessor." A number of different ministers spoke briefly, the pastor of the church making the first remarks. He was followed by Dr. D. B. Willson, who emphasized the brevity and uncertainty of life and the need to be in readiness for the coming of the Son of man. Dr. W. J. Coleman spoke of his acquaintance with Mrs. Balph, when she was Miss Allen, and led the music in the church services at Beaver Falls. Such work on her part was suggestive of her willingness to serve the Master in any capacity. Dr. R. C. Wylie said in his remarks that had our friend lived in the early days of the Christian Church, the name Penelope might have found a place among the honorable women of the Bible, but we do know that it is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Mr. Anthony Khouri, Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Syrian Mission, and who had been a pupil of Mrs. Balph over in Syria, expressed his feelings in a few very earnest words, bidding farewell to his former teacher as she lay before him ready for her final resting place. One of the unique and touching incidents of the occasion was the singing in Arabic of the twenty-third Psalm by a number of the smaller Syrian pupils whom Mr. Khouri had brought to the church. Their presence and participation in the services were very suggestive of the work for the Master which Mrs. Balph had done for this race of people both abroad and at home.

The Rev. E. K. Patton, of the East End Church, led in the closing prayer, and the Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. R. C. Reed, of the Central Allegheny Church. The whole occasion was one of marked spirituality. It was full of solemnity, but not pre-eminently sad. Gratitude mingled

with grief. The note of victory predominated over that of bereavement.

Miss Margaret Allen, of the Pittsburgh Congregation, is a sister of Mrs. Balph. There are two other sisters, Mrs. Marion McCandless, of Butler, Pa., and Mrs. Jean Crabbe, of Youngstown, Ohio, and a brother, Mr. John Allen, of Beaver Falls.

A number of friends were present at the funeral services from Beaver Falls, and some who were not at Pittsburgh were at the cemetery to express their appreciation of the departed and their sympathy with the living. Thus another of our woman workers is called away from the foreign work. Who is in the line of succession in this necessary and honorable department of work for the Master?

The introductory remarks of the pastor of the Pittsburgh Congregation at the funeral of Mrs. Balph were as follows: It is not our purpose to make formal or extended remarks on this occasion. Penelope Allen was married in November, 1896, to Dr. J. M. Balph, and they left in December of that same year for our Syrian Foreign Mission field, where Dr. Balph had labored before. They have thus been occupied together with the Master's work in this foreign field for about twenty years, except for vacation periods. Their present stay in the home land has been prolonged because of difficulties affecting the Mission and arising from the war. During this time their church home has been with the Pittsburgh congregation, and it has been our privilege and pleasure to have their companionship and co-operation. Mrs. Balph, though connected with the Pittsburgh Syrian Mission, which has its Sabbath morning services, has shown the interest, and much the same regularity of attendance here, of a regular member of our congregation. She has taken part in our work, and has also found time to assist elsewhere with her practical knowledge of missionary opera-

tions. Not long since she led our mid-week prayer meeting, and it is not too much to say that we were charmed by the quiet, simple, lucid manner in which near the close of the meeting she put before us the story of the healing of the nobleman's son, which had been our general theme. She called attention to his spark of faith which grew into a flame and then a fire; and she spoke of his remarkable confidence in the assurance of the Master as seen in the evident fact that he did not hasten home that same night to see his son, who had been so ill, but went back the following day.

One week ago last Sabbath she taught one of the younger classes in our Sabbath School. She was present at prayer meeting one week ago to-night, and when I asked her if she could attend a cottage prayer meeting not far from her home on the following Friday evening, she replied that she did not think she could, because of another possible engagement, and because of a severe cold which might prevent her going out at all. She took sick, but was not seriously ill till about Friday night of last week. She became unconscious on Saturday evening, and at about half-past eight o'clock on Monday morning she fell asleep in Christ.

We read in the account of the Transfiguration of Jesus that Moses and Elijah, who were with him, talked with him about his approaching "decease," which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem. The meaning of the word is "departure." It is the word "exodus" in the original. So our friend did not die. She departed. Christ has abolished death. She did not cease to exist. She went to a higher stage of existence. She was promoted. She went home. That is all. We can say of her that she has fought the good fight, she has finished her course, she has kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for her the crown of righteousness which the God the righteous judge will give to

her at the last day. So we meet to-day, not pre-eminently to mourn, but to express our sincere appreciation of our departed friend, to manifest our gratitude to God for her life, and to express our strong conviction that he who loved us and gave himself for us will soon come for us, and receive us to himself, that where he is there we may also be.

AN APPRECIATION.

Another of our Latakia mission circle has been transferred to glory. Another of Christ's servants for Syria has finished her work. I say servant, for Mrs. Doctor Balph loved that word, and we are glad to share a few glimpses of that life and service as we saw her busy here and there for her Lord.

We have known Mrs. Balph since our college days. During that time we have seen her busy for her Master on the home staff; in the Latakia base out yonder at the front, and then during her last days while on furlough, yet busy in the same work for the Syrians, strangers in a strange land—people that always had a grip on her heart and life. In all three places Mrs. Balph was an enthusiastic leader and worker.

When we first knew her she was the leader of the choir in the Beaver Falls congregation during the pastorate of Rev. W. M. Glasgow, and we often wished in those days that every Covenanter congregation could have a Penelope Allen to lead them in praise.

We next met her on the Foreign Field, and I express the unanimous testimony of all who knew her, when I say, she was a missionary through and through. Her zeal and devotion were shown in personal work, in her home, and in contact with the schools and hospital.

In personal work she was an example to us all, and although hindered with the bonds of a foreign

tongue she never forgot this great opportunity and privilege of the child of God. She was welcomed by the poor, and no home was too humble for her to enter and sit down on the floor and visit and talk about the eternal things of God as they touched the every-day life of such conditions. She was respected by the rich, whose homes were open to her, even Moslem homes, where Dr. Balph's service and your hospital yonder opened the door of access.

In her home she was a queen. The personal touch and interest, her ability to make the stranger at ease, her warm heart and generous hospitality, you could never forget. And it has left its impress in our city and on the farthest village whose transient visitors came under her influence. Mrs. Balph always claimed the privilege of preparing the Annual Thanksgiving dinner for the Mission Circle, saying, in her humble way, that it was little she could do and so she wanted to do this. Those were blessed hours to us all. The social fellowship, the finer touch of home life, and the Christian love and hospitality of these occasions, are never to be forgotten. Indeed, those days might well be called holy days, for they were surely a means of grace.

In our English prayer meetings on Friday evenings Mrs. Balph was ever an enthusiastic helper. This is about the only religious service that the wives have in their own language, and our first years taught us the meaning of that one hour a week when we could understand what was said and had the liberty in prayer or testimony. Mrs. Balph had the gift of intercession and clear expression of her thoughts about spiritual things. And she brought these to our prayer circle sanctified by the Spirit, and it was a blessing to hear her testimony or her pleadings for some weak soul or degraded village of which she had heard through the week.

She will always be remembered in our schools by the children who delighted to hear her sing. To hear her sing was to be thrilled. To follow her leading in worship was to be lifted through praise into the spirit of the hour. She took great delight in teaching those who could learn music and she was rewarded by seeing one after another leading the praise service in the church.

Her hand was ever open to the poor; and indeed, the poor are ever with us in Syria. No one will ever know the loaves of Arabic bread passed out through the window to the needy. But the Master kept count of these, and the cups of water given to the thirsty in His name, and He knows how to recompense.

We have had the privilege of several visits in her temporary home while passing through Pittsburgh, and her conversation was ever concerning the field we love. And when we prayed together the petitions centred around the beloved people of Gunamia, amongst whom she delighted to summer, and who since have been driven away in the Government deportations. They loved Mrs. Balph, and they delighted to talk about her as they pointed me to this spot and that nook on the jagged hill sides where they and she had sat and talked about Jesus.

It was amongst the Syrian people of Pittsburgh she spent her last days. And who can tell of the answers yet to come to her fervent prayers for those in Pittsburgh and in Latakia and in our mountain villages.

What an investment of zeal and prayer and service! This was hers and the Holy Spirit will care well for the returns. Truly Syria has lost a warm friend, Latakia a fervent intercessor, and the Mission circle the love and fellowship of one who loved them and his service and who loved to serve.

We may well say in the words of the Christian poet:

Gentle hands and tireless feet,
Faces high and calm and sweet,
Courage that knows no defeat—
Handmaids of The King.

Quick to see and understand,
Prompt to answer each demand,
Strong the heaviest strain to stand—
Handmaids of The King.

Christly work that suffering cures,
Combats pain and peace procures,
Christly work, indeed, is yours—
Handmaids of The King.

S. EDGAR.

A CITY MISSIONARY.

In the early morning of March 27, Miss Sarah E. Walker, the beloved Missionary of the Second New York congregation, entered into rest after several months of extreme suffering.

She went to work with a city firm when a girl in the beginning of her 'teens, in order to help a widowed mother support her family. She made good use of her time, talents and opportunities there, and was advanced to a position of special trust by the firm. While in the assurance of a remunerative and successful business career, she was asked by Mr. Andrew Alexander, representing the session of the congregation, to act as city missionary. She had no expectation of doing such work, and shrank from undertaking it. After consideration, she accepted it as the call of God, and for twenty-two years she gave herself to it unreservedly in the name of her Master. She developed to be a missionary of rare character and usefulness. She had large plans and bright hopes for her work when taken away in the midtime of life.

Miss Walker was a versatile worker and had a great variety of activities—mostly in the effort to help people in the hard things of life. She was the recruiting and truant officer for the Sabbath School, and worked only under the law of love. Troubled moth-

ers gave her the load of their sorrows and cares in their homes. She ministered to them with her own hands in many ways, and directed them to the Great Burden Bearer by instruction and prayer. She frequented many of the civil courts, hospitals, infirmaries and charity organizations. She became well known and respected by officials in these institutions and rendered splendid service to a multitude of unfortunate ones. She found employment for men, women and children, and gave them substantial help when they had none. Many are the lives and homes made better because of her efforts. Tender testimonies of love and appreciation are given by those to whom she ministered. "She was God's good angel in our home." "She was a mother to me." "She saved my John." "She led me to Christ." "She made my home what it is." "She taught me all I know about Christ." Such are the words you hear in the homes she entered. She conducted a "Mothers' Club" for the enjoyment, instruction and salvation of its members. Working constantly in the wreckage of the drink traffic, she did effective temperance work among the children. She also brought them together from the snares of the street to enjoyment and instruction in "Arts and Crafts" work; and in every relation instructed in the Word of Truth and the Way of Life. Those in her Sabbath School and other classes testify to the effectiveness of her instructions.

When you know that she made fifteen hundred home calls in an average year's work, in addition to all the other activities, you will understand that she was "diligent in business"—the King's business. That means many miles of walking, many car-fares, many stairs climbed, in all kinds of weather.

She was humble in all her life and work and yet had the greatest of courage in defense of the right and in behalf of the needy. She usually succeeded in doing what she undertook.

While a person of great tenderness and sympathy, she used excellent judgment and readily detected the faker or religious parasites, and in a tactful but decided way showed them where to quit.

Hers was an obscure life in the view of the world but made glorious for Christ by a living sacrifice. Six words stand out vividly as descriptive of her life. Versatile, humble, self-sacrificing, sympathetic, diligent and efficient. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

Hers is the greatness of a life of service. Her reward is abundant in this life and in that beyond.

The writer set a high estimate on her worth and her work, as did his predecessor. ARTHUR A. SAMSON.

CHRIST'S CALL TO THE COLORS.

Our nation is now at war. Our President has at last summoned us to battle for our country and the world. Men are crowding the enlistment stations. They are willing to fight on their own soil, in the air, on the seas, and in the trenches of Europe. We admire their patriotism. It will mean much for our sons to go. It will mean much for us to let them go. Our young women are offering themselves for Red Cross service, and their efforts will be much needed. They are as willing as the men to devote themselves to the cause of country and humanity. All who go with right motive are serving God. But there is a higher and broader call; the call of the kingdom of God. God is calling young women. He is calling young men. He asks them to give themselves in a service that goes the whole limit of human devotion. He wants their service here at home. He wants it abroad. He is calling for missionaries of the cross, just now, and the call is very clear. Are our youth as willing to serve King Jesus as they are to serve Uncle Sam? Remember, Canada has raised an army for the European conflict of 450,000 men, and

yet the total number of foreign missionaries from Canada last year was 664. Let us be patriots in this solemn hour of our country's need; but shall we not say: "*Pro Christo et patria*," for Christ and native land? Let us be loyal not only to the Stars and Stripes, but to the blood-stained banner of the Son of God. He has gone forth to war for the redemption of the world. He is calling us to the colors. Let us lay our sword at his feet. Let us put ourselves, and all of us, into his service for the whole war.

CONVENTION NOTES.

The third annual convention of the W. M. S., of the Kansas Presbytery, was held at Superior, Nebraska, March 28 and 29. It was feared there would be a small attendance as Superior is so much to one side, but there was a larger attendance of delegates than at the Sterling or Olathe Conventions.

The most important business of the Superior Convention was undertaking the support of Miss Rose Huston. A delegate writes: "I don't believe we would have done it if Mr. Blair had not shown us that two postage stamps a week given by each member of our local societies would pay her salary. Four cents a week for each of us does not seem so formidable as six hundred dollars total."

The newly-elected officers of the Kansas W. M. S. are:

President, Mrs. G. M. Robb; First Vice President, Mrs. J. M. Wylie; Second Vice President, Mrs. D. H. Elliott; Recording Secretary, Mrs. F. E. Allen; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. A. Edgar; Treasurer, Mrs. C. A. Dodds, and Superintendent of Mission Bands, Mrs. T. C. Weir.

REPORTS FROM SOCIETIES

Beulah, Neb., 1916.

The Ladies' Missionary Society held eight regular meetings and seven work meetings, with an average attendance of eight. Sixteen members are enrolled.

We have pieced three quilts for the society and quilted one for the Juniors. We quilted one quilt for which two dollars was received. The quilts were sent with a box of clothing to the Southern Mission. The Juniors sent one quilt and nine shirts which they made and collected clothing for the box valued at thirty dollars, fifteen dollars credited to the L. M. S. and fifteen to the Juniors.

One box of clothing was sent to the cyclone sufferers in Omaha, valued at fifteen dollars. We sent our pledge of twenty dollars to the Chinese Mission at Tak Hing.

For study this year we have had Dr. Balph's book, "Fifty Years in Syrian Mission Work," and decided to study the women of the Bible the coming year.

TREASURER'S REPORT. . .

Money received	\$44.60
Paid out	28.80
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Balance on hand	\$15.80

MRS. HANNAH CRAWFORD,
President.

MRS. KATE JONES,
Secretary.

Annual Report of the Secretary of the Ladies' Missionary Society, Syracuse, N. Y.—January, 1916, to January, 1917.

The Ladies' Missionary Society, with a membership of thirty, had an

average attendance of twenty-one at the ten regular meetings held during the year. In August, a picnic, planned for a park, was held in the church because of the rain.

At six meetings, following the business session and devotional exercises, missionary programmes were given.

In the early part of the year we lost one member, Mrs. James McAllister, by death.

An efficient work committee furnished sewing, crocheting, etc., for the ladies who could meet in the afternoons. Wash cloths, towels and comfortables were made and sold. In October, all met in special session for a casserole supper. Each brought a gift, a game or toy, etc., for a box, which was sent to the Southern Mission in time for Christmas.

In November, each member was requested by the Work Committee to earn a dollar in some novel way. At the December meeting each one told how she had earned it. Many interesting tales were told, but Miss Mary Dougall won the prize offered by the committee. These dollars were sent to help relieve the suffering in Syria.

During the autumn, orders were taken for Christmas Greetings that netted the society \$21.76.

Our society has been represented at the Syracuse City Missionary Association this past year by two directresses, Miss Agnes Scott and Mrs. W. D. Foster.

The new officers elected in December for the year 1917 are:

President, Miss E. E. Scott.
Vice President, Mrs. W. J. R. McFarland.

Secretary, Mrs. T. J. Windle.
Treasurer, Mrs. A. A. Wylie.

Respectfully submitted,
EVA DOUGALL,
Secretary.

Treasurer's Report of the Syracuse, N. Y., Ladies' Missionary Society.— January 1, 1916, to January 1, 1917.

To Balance Jan. 1, 1916	\$19.26
“ Society Dues	57.35
“ Work Committee Returns	18.44
“ dollars Earned by Mem- bers for Syrian Relief	26.00
“ Sale of Holiday Greetings	21.76
“ Subscription for Carpet Fund	165.55
“ Miscellaneous Returns	5.21
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	\$313.57
By Syrian Relief	\$46.00
“ Jewish Mission	10.00
“ Home Mission Work	2.00
“ City Mission Work	2.00
“ Mission in China	10.00
“ Express on Box to South- ern Mission	1.05
“ Carpet Fund	165.55
“ Programs	1.85
“ Kitchen Supplies	6.94
“ Flowers	12.75
“ Work Committee Supplies	12.23
“ Balance	43.20
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	\$313.57

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. A. A. WYLIE,
Treasurer.

Selma, Ala., March 12, 1917.

The Ladies' Missionary Society of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Selma, Ala., has held twelve meetings during the year, with an average attendance of fifteen. This society was organized in 1900 with five members.

The society last year made rugs from old rags, made a quilt for the flood sufferers and fixed post cards to be sent to the foreign mission fields.

The society studied "Home Missions in Action." Sometimes a certain mission was the special subject for an evening. The Syrian Mission was the subject one evening. After all the

missionaries had been named and their stations located, Dr. and Mrs. Edgar exhibited quite a number of curios and told about the manners and customs of the Syrians, which was very interesting.

Miss Lola Weir, who has a brother in that field, told us something about Syria.

Miss Ella M. Hays represented the society at Presbyterial, which was held at Oakdale, Ill., last summer. On her return she gave an excellent report.

We do a great deal of mission work in the community. Whenever a needy call is made the society does all it can to help such a call, both in a financial and spiritual way.

The year was a prosperous one. God surely blessed us in our feeble efforts. Though few in numbers we are trying to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and build up His Kingdom on this earth.

E. FRAZIER,
Secretary.

Treasurer's Report.

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1917	\$5.05
Dues	18.56
Valley Creek Mission	7.00
Chinese Girl Fund	21.00
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Total	\$51.61

DISBURSEMENTS.

Chinese Girl Fund	\$21.00
Valley Creek Mission	7.00
Jewish Mission	5.00
Aged Peoples' Home	2.50
Booker T. Washington Me- morial Fund	1.00
Needy in Syrian Field	2.05
Sub. for OLIVE TREES	1.00
Miscellaneous expenses	1.44
Mission Study Book35
	<hr/>
	\$41.34

January 1, 1917, balance . . . \$10.27

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Edited by MRS. FINDLEY M. WILSON, 2517 North Franklin Street,
Philadelphia, Penna.

It is with sadness that we make mention of the death at Pittsburgh, Penna., of Mrs. Penelope Allen Balph, wife of Dr. J. M. Balph, of our mission hospital at Latakia, Syria. Mrs. Balph was a noble Christian woman and an earnest and efficient worker in the Syrian field. Her passing will bring sorrow to many hearts, both here and in Turkey. Extended notice of her death will be found on other pages of this issue.

* * * *

Dr. A. I. Robb, with his wife and little daughter, arrived at Vancouver about April 4th and is now at the Sanitarium at Battle Creek, Michigan, having gone there directly upon landing. They spent the Sabbath en route at Glenwood, Minn., reaching Battle Creek on the evening of April 10th. Dr. Robb writes that he spent the whole of the day before sailing from Hong Kong in his bed, but that the fever began to leave as soon as they got out to sea and headed northward. He also gained in strength on the voyage. We are glad of the assurance from the doctors that Dr. Robb has no organic trouble. In his weakened condition after the pneumonia attack, he was unable to withstand the malaria that overtook him. We are encouraged in the thought that a few months' rest and treatment will completely eradicate the malaria from his system and that he will be able to return to his work in China with renewed vigor.

* * * *

The Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board, Mr. Joseph M. Steele, has recently received a remittance of \$185.75 from the Women's Presbyterian Missionary Society of Kansas Presbytery. It is called the "Mattie Wylie Memorial Fund." This money is to be used at the discretion of the

Foreign Mission Board in the foreign work of the Church. The Board will consider at its next meeting in May what disposition to make of the sum.

* * * *

A letter has come from Canton, China, from Dr. J. M. Wright, and is dated February 22, 1917. It will be of interest to hear of their new location and work. Dr. Wright says, "We left Tak Hing on February 14, reaching Canton on the evening of the 15th, and were met by Dr. Thomson, who had provided means for moving our goods that night. Since coming our time has been given to getting our household furniture arranged and in getting acquainted somewhat with the hospital work.

We have a commodious house of two large rooms and a hall down stairs and three good-sized rooms upstairs—all provided with electric lights and running water. The house has been cleaned, color washed, and painted, and is being screened. There is a good lawn, and the house fronts the Pearl River, which is constantly crowded with ships and boats of various kinds.

The Board of Managers of the Union Hospital is now composed of three members: Dr. Dickson, of our mission; Rev. Kunkle, of the Presbyterian Mission, and Rev. Spicher, of the Northern Baptist Mission.

It is expected that this Board will soon be enlarged by members representing other missions, and Dr. Thomson tells me that all missions with medical work have promised to take part as soon as proper arrangements are made. Several missions are hindered at present by the war. All the missions are enthusiastic over the prospects. The general policy of the hospital will be guided by the missions through their representa-

tives on the Board of Managers. There will of necessity be considerable preliminary work in a new organization of such magnitude.

There are two foreign nurses and a large force of native nurses and trained assistants. The spiritual atmosphere is good and the whole force, with all the patients who can, attend chapel daily. We all take our turn in conducting these chapel meetings. The evangelistic work will be given special attention.

My work at present will be to assist Dr. Thomson in surgery, and to have charge of the hospital laboratory, also to demonstrate histology to the first-year class in Kung Yee Medical College.

This is certainly a great work for the Kingdom and is worthy of our prayers and best efforts.

* * * *

Larnaca, Cyprus. In a letter from Rev. Walter McCarroll, written February 27, Mr. McCarroll tells of a new department of their work in the island—a service in Arabic for the Syrian refugees. It is held Sabbath afternoon and he says they have about fifty in attendance. While the Lord may be closing doors of opportunity in Syria he is opening others in Cyprus. Relative to his home-coming this spring Mr. McCarroll writes: "As things stand now I shall not get away until the end of June. My brother and family were down for the weekend this last week. We have the church well filled each Sabbath morning for the services in English. In addition to the services in Greek, Turkish and English we also have one for the Syrian refugees in Arabic. All of the mission circle are in good health. Mr. Weir continues to be very satisfactory."

* * * *

Lo Ting, China. There is a fine, newsy letter from Rev. E. C. Mitchell, who went back to Lo Ting last fall. This is the first letter from Mr. Mitchell since his return. Both Mrs.

Mitchell and he are rejoicing in renewed health and strength, and were quite well when Mr. Mitchell wrote. He says: "We left here January 15th to go to Tak Hing for our mission meeting. It took us about thirty hours to go down there. Our meetings lasted for the rest of the week. Then as Chinese New Year's day came in the middle of the week we could not get back until the week following. It is impossible to hire a boat in New Year's week as they will not run. I waited in Tak Hing until the end of the week, to Friday night, and then took a steamer to Hongkong as I had a little business there. I got back up to Tak Hing Wednesday morning, January 31. The others had boats hired and ready to start up to Lo Ting so we started off before breakfast. We had to get on the way early to make it here before Sabbath Day.

"We had good weather all the way and we landed in Lo Ting about noon Saturday. The water in the river is very low. We passed one large boat that was stuck in the sand. They called to us to come over and take part of their cargo off for them so they could get off. Our boatmen were in favor of doing it, but I told them they could not do so. It would have meant a delay for us that would have gotten us in here either late Saturday night or on Sabbath morning. It looked in a way as though we were not doing the good Samaritan act, but they were stuck in the sand because they were greedy and in their efforts to pile on the cargo and make more money they got too much for them to carry. They could very easily have hired another boat, but their idea was to get us to help them and it would not cost them so much money. So I did not feel under obligations to help them out.

"We came on up the river and found in one place a table standing on the sand on each side of the river with a big flag beside it. Before we got quite up to the place the men on shore called

to us to stop and anchor for twenty-four hours. This was on Friday afternoon so that a stop of twenty-four hours would have meant something to us. I wanted to know why they wanted us to stop and they said they had just finished a new temple on one side of the river and the idol was to cross the river to his new abode the next day and they did not want us to go up the river ahead of him. We told them we would not stop. They kept yelling at us until they found it would do no good so they finally stopped.

"We had a very good mission meeting this time. It seems that we have more business to talk over than we used to have so that it takes us longer to get talked out than it used to do. We used to make one day do the work, but now it takes three or four days. If we keep on our meetings will soon be as long as a meeting of synod.

"The annual reports showed that progress is being made in most directions. There is still plenty of room yet for work to be done, though. After one has been away from the field for a while and returns he is able to see progress has been made where he thought before nothing was being done.

"The work here in Lo Ting is going along slowly. The girls' school has opened with something like fifty pupils enrolled. Miss Dean is opening a kindergarten department. This is something entirely new for this place and, of course, the attendance is small to begin with. Miss Stewart and Miss Dean are both experts at their work and they can make a success of their school work. It is wonderful how Miss Stewart has brought the school out while we were away. She did not have much in the way of equipment to work with, either. The Board did a good thing when they sent her to China.

"I have not been able to get the chapel work as it should be, and as I would like to have it. We do not have

the attendance by the Christians that we should have. We are doing the best we know how to get the work going as it should go and I hope it will get picked up again soon.

"The magistrate we have here just now is a progressive fellow. A little girl, who is paralyzed in her lower limbs, and is also almost idiotic, was left by her people on the road side not long ago and someone picked her up and brought her to our dispensary and left her there. We had no place we could put her to take care of her at all. The magistrate heard about it and he arranged a place for her where she will be taken care of, and Dr. Dickson is to treat her free of charge. We were somewhat surprised that he took the matter up."

* * * *

Tak Hing, China. We are glad to have a letter from Rev. W. M. Robb, giving an account of the Communion and Annual Meeting of the Mission at Tak Hing. Mr. Robb and his family are to spend the greater part of this this year at the Language School in Canton studying Chinese. The letter follows: It was written February 12, 1917:

"Another Chinese New Year is past. This year it began on January 30, thus following very closely on our own holiday season, which a good many Chinese are coming to observe. As you know, the Chinese New Year does not come at the same time each successive year, but may have a margin of two or three months. The proximity of the two occasions this year had rather a demoralizing effect on work and workers, but now that the gayeties are all over, perhaps every one will return to his work with a lighter heart, and most certainly with a lighter purse, and, in all probability, with a disordered digestion.

"To the Tak Hing station, the New Year brought many choice blessings. Perhaps the chiefest of these was the privilege of again showing forth the Lord's death in the Sacrament of the

Supper. Although a very busy season and the weather quite cold, the attendance was good, especially on the great day of the feast. One hundred and thirty-three sat down at the feast. Four new names were added to the roll. The exercises on communion Sabbath were quite impressive, at least to one who had not been permitted for seven years to sing the Lord's song in a foreign land, and to fellowship with his brethren of another race. In the presence of holy things as exhibited under the sacred symbols of water and bread and wine, it would have been difficult, indeed, to have forgotten Jerusalem, our chief Joy. As he who for a score of years has ministered in the Master's name to this people led us up the sides of the mount of holy communion, we discovered the whole limit round about to be most holy, and as the messenger unveiled to us the Cross of Cavalry with its bleeding victim, we were amazed anew at the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the greatness of the Divine love, the cost of our redemption, and the perfection of the Redeemer's work.

"The order maintained throughout the sacramental service itself was splendid, and in favorable contrast with years past. The elders officiated with a grace and gravity which only Chinese can hope to attain unto, and the whole service was one which we felt reflected honor upon the Lord of the feast, and the Master of assemblies.

"On Saturday an election was held, resulting in the choice of five to the office of the eldership. One old disciple who has won a reputation for faithfulness in attendance upon the ordinances which any person might covet, and which has called out the admiration of even cynical unbeliever, was unanimously elected. Six others were to have been chosen, and on the first ballot four were elected, despite the fact that there were 27 candidates. A second ballot failed to elect, and the

election was discontinued at that point. Most of the men chosen are well qualified for the office. Two are from the city of Tak Hing, which has not been directly represented on the session before. Reproach has not been infrequent from this quarter, and it is believed that the choice will give the church better standing in the community, as the men are worthy, and, moreover, bold in their testimony for the truth.

"A native conference followed the communion, in which reports from Chinese workers in various parts of the field were considered, as well as plans for the coming year's work. Two days later, the Commencement exercises were held, at which graduates from the Boys' School, the Girls' School, and from the Hospital Training Class received diplomas. Those who are more familiar with the proceedings of these two meetings will doubtless report on them.

"The annual mission meeting was held the same week, at which we had the pleasure of meeting all of our Lo Ting workers. One-half of the six we had known before and had come to appreciate their worth. The other half we had not known, but are glad to say that the splendid reports we had heard of Dr. and Mrs. Dixon and Miss Stewart, have been fully sustained. As no boats could be gotten back to Lo Ting on account of New Year's (it takes four days to make the trip of forty miles up stream) we had the privilege of fellowship with our friends for a week or more.

"After a period of absence, one is greatly impressed with the progress which has been going on through the years. The development of the work itself is noteworthy, but the growth which gives most abundant joy to the heart is that which is so manifest in the lives of the Christians themselves. The attitude of the people who are not Christian is also very greatly changed, both toward the message and the messengers. Pray that your representatives may be channels

through which the Lord Jesus may manifest Himself to these people, and that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.”

* * * *

Rev. J. K. Robb, writing on March 3, gives this interesting account of a Sabbath Day's work near Ma Hui (Maw Whee), the town a short distance northeast of Tak Hing where there was such an unusual awakening last year. Mr. Kempf has been preaching there from time to time and baptized a number of converts recently:

“On a recent Saturday afternoon the writer, in company with one of our native preachers, took a ten-mile jaunt into the country in the neighborhood of Ma Hui. There has evidently been a great awakening in that community, due in great measure, humanly speaking, to the zeal of a certain man named Chue Ip Sún. This man lives about a half hour's walk from the town of Ma Hui. We had been invited by him to come to his home, as there were a number of people in his village who were anxious to learn the gospel, and others who wished to unite with the church. We arrived at his home about 6 o'clock in the evening. After supper the people began to gather in, and by 8 o'clock the place was full to overflowing. The native preacher and the writer took up the time until half-past ten, when we closed the meeting with singing and repeating the Lord's prayer. Our host then announced that there would be another meeting the next morning at half-past 8. We then went to bed and slept sweetly, at least the native preacher did, as was inferred from the regular, trumpet-like tones that issued from the bed just across the room from where the writer was reposing. We were up by half-past 7 the next morning, and before very long a man dropped in who wished to be examined for membership. Before we were done with him, others had come. By and by we

took time off to eat breakfast, and then resumed the examination of candidates. This we did until 12 o'clock, when a service was held, at which six persons were baptized, and received into the membership of the church on earth, and we believe that they were already members of the church invisible. Just as we were concluding the service, a number of women and children came. They heard the concluding Psalm, and, evidently thought, the singing of a high order, as they requested our host that we sing some more, which we did, taking up perhaps a half hour. They expressed themselves as being delighted, going so far as to compliment a young fellow whose voice was of a peculiarly strident quality. We then took to the road again, going to the chapel in the town of Ma Hui. It was one of their market days there, and great numbers of people were in town. The chapel was soon filled, and the two travelers, together with the evangelist stationed at the Ma Hui chapel, all made speeches, the crowd listening with attention. At 3 o'clock we left, taking the road back to Tak Hing. It seemed to us Sabbath well spent.

“It is but seldom that one finds people so eager to hear the gospel. ‘Hungering and thirsting’ would be as accurate a description for their eagerness as one could find. And it is such a pleasure to have as listeners those who are not simply waiting for an hour to pass, so that they may get away again, but who are ready to stay as long as there is any preaching being done, regardless of time.

“A word should be said about the man who has been the human instrumentality in bringing about this awakening. He is not in any sense a learned man. He has been a storekeeper until within a year or two, and does not pose as being anything other than one of the people. But he has spoken that which he knows, and testifies of that which he has seen. He

is a living witness to the fact that anyone with the truth in his heart may be a witness for Christ. Practically all of the persons examined said that they heard the gospel first through this man. The great thing is a willingness to be used of God, and He can then use us, and will use us."

* * * *

Rev. Julius Kempf writes about the boys' school at Tak Hing.

"Our school began the first term of the new year on February 9. During the first week 67 boys were registered. Ten new boys came from a village about ten miles up the river. They were from 14 to 18 years old, and not one of them could enter classes higher than the lowest grammar grade. Some of them had studied seven and eight years under old-style teachers, and they were all accustomed to the 'Seven-days-go-as-you-please' old style Chinese school, so it was a little hard for them to be suddenly tied down to law and order in a new institution.

"After they had been in school a week four of them showed signs of discontent. They skipped classes, refused to attend evening worship and went outside the school grounds without permission. When we called them to account they said they had too much studying to do, the work was too hard and they did not want to study the Bible and attend religious meetings. We told them that we considered the Bible to be the best book in the world, and the chief text book in our school, and any boy who refused to take the Bible lessons would have to leave. Then they said they would leave. We tried to persuade them to wait a few days longer until they were a little better acquainted with the surroundings and customs of the school and then, perhaps, they would see that the work was not so hard.

cided to leave. Every pupil when he " Finally, on the tenth day they de-

enters the school must have his parents sign a paper in which he agrees that if for any reason whatever he leaves the school before the end of the year he will pay a whole year's tuition and also boarding fees up to the end of the month. It is also a rule of the school that a pupil cannot remove his baggage until he pays all fees.

"So these four boys, after being in school only ten days, and rather than stay where they would have to study the Bible and work hard at other studies, paid a full month's board and a whole year's tuition. The amount paid by each boy was six dollars and ten cents. Strange to say, these boys in the beginning bought New Testaments and Psalm books, and when they left bundled these books up with their other possessions. May we not hope that what they refused to do under the rules of a school they may be made willing to do under the rules and influence of the Holy Spirit."

* * * *

The following is from the pen of Dr. Kate W. McBurney, of Tak Hing:

"The Biennial Conference of the China Medical Missionary Association met this year in Canton. All the Covenanter doctors attended. It was in session a week, and it was a busy week. The steamer that brought the northern delegation was five days late, which delayed the opening of the sessions, but otherwise it was a successful conference. Great credit is due the local members of the South China Branch for the splendid arrangements made for the comfort of the visiting delegates.

One feature of this conference that was unique was the fact that it was a joint meeting with the National Medical Association, which is wholly Chinese. The National Association is two years old and calls itself our child. We might well be proud of it, as it is a very well behaved child. Many of its members, I believe, are Christians, though I do not know the proportion. Our forenoon meetings were held

jointly with the two presidents alternately in the chair. The Chinese president speaks very good English, and presided with as much grace and dignity as our own. The Associations separated at 11 o'clock and held business sessions in their respective rooms. From 12 o'clock till half-past 12 was the devotional session.

"The afternoons were full. We visited the various hospitals and colleges, and had 4 o'clock tea at one of the places visited. One of these visits was to the Government hospital, and the Governor was there in person and presided at the tea. A table was joined around three sides of a large hall, which would seat about a hundred persons. Buns, fruit, cakes and coffee were there in abundance for our refreshment—and candy, too. After the tea we were grouped in the lawn and a photographer did the rest. The visit was one we will long remember. The hospital was very clean and remarkably up to date. The Governor said they were doing the best they knew and would be glad to have any of the visitors make any suggestions that would help them to make it better.

"Some of the recent Governors have found it more for their comfort of mind to send a representative to any public function, but this man is well liked by the people, and it is no wonder. He is so really great that he can afford to be really humble, and no one can help admiring such a character. He seemed to have prepared to show every attention to the Conference. He does not speak Cantonese, so could not have understood had he attended the meetings as he does not understand English, either. He gave a banquet to the joint delegation. It was a grand affair. It was in the largest place that could be secured for the purpose, and was full. The Governor was there and dressed in full evening suit with a number of medals adorning his person. The menu cards were very neat, and a delicate pink flower with a spray of foliage was at

each plate. The viands were served in foreign style, but some of them were Chinese enough to add the appropriate flavor to the feast. While we waited for dinner to be announced they passed around tiny sandwiches made in a way that some of us had never seen. First was a layer of crisp pastry, about the size of a silver dollar. On that was a succession of layers, each a little smaller than the preceding one, and different. All of them vegetable, and faintly acid in taste. They were a delicate appetizer and we all enjoyed them. The first course at the table was soup of bird's nest and shark fins. It was very good, as were all the other courses. There were speeches, and toasts (?), and we went home delighted with the Governor.

"The delegates were entertained at a banquet on a subsequent evening by the local associations, jointly. That was not so pretentious as the Governor's but we invited the Governor, and he came and seemed to enjoy it greatly. He was dressed in the same way as before, except the medals were not in evidence.

"At the tea given by the Governor in the Hospital grounds, he announced that he had a wire from Hong Kong, saying that the return steamer for the northern delegates would be four days late in sailing, and as that would give them a longer stay in Canton, he would take pleasure in giving us all an outing in two or three boats. He said they would not have anything very nice to show us, but he would give us some nice fresh air and, perhaps, they could find some place to have a little tea at 4 o'clock. This invitation was hailed with delight.

"On the day appointed we were at the trysting place at the appointed hour, and three little launches awaited us. We were asked to go aboard and were taken out to two good-sized gunboats. and when we were all on, His Excellency, the Governor, stepped on board, and shook hands with every

one. We steamed away down the Pearl River, and did not have to wait long for a cup of tea. A table on top deck was laid, and we found one for the ladies down below. The President of the Nationals was down there, looking after our comfort, and when he thought the 'boys' were slow he took a hand and brought our tea around to us. The Governor was down part of the time and even he passed a cup or two. He is a large, well-built man, and that day had on a gray business suit, which fitted him perfectly, and a gray hat which was of a style that suited his figure, and he knew just how to carry himself at a picnic. After we had regaled ourselves with tea, coffee, or soda water, we were taken ashore at the old Wampoia dock. There we were shown to a rambling old building with elegant blackwood table and chairs, and the table laid. We thought we had taken tea on board, but were to be refreshed again. A few small tables out in the lawn were more than we could resist, and everybody proceeded to the shady outdoors. The Governor took the hint and soon had "boys" carrying tables until there were enough to accommodate us all. Four could sit at each table, and there were fruits, cakes, candies and plates ready, and they brought on sandwiches, tea, sodas, etc., till we had enough in sight to make a meal. We then went up a steep declivity to a lookout, where we could have a fine view of the surroundings. While we were at the tables, the Governor went from one table to another, taking a bite with different friends as he passed around, and you may be sure he was welcomed everywhere. At dusk we steamed back to the city, but we heard no complaints that we had no time to get supper before the evening session opened. Several of us had private invitation to take supper with friends, but the friends were gracious and forgave us when we made our apologies.

"Perhaps the most important subject before us was just how to proceed in the education of the present generation of Chinese doctors so that they in turn may carry on the work in the Chinese medical colleges of the future on a Christian basis. We foreign doctors will not be needed then for the strictly medical teaching, for the Chinese will be mentally equipped and will be greatly our superiors from the standpoint of their use of the mother tongue. Will we dawdle along now and let them go to Japan to get their start because we are too slow about getting educational work on a strong foundation? That will mean the spread of Japanese atheism and agnosticism, and a repetition of the experience of Christianity in Japan, or will we wake up and put men and money into the education of this generation of medical students, so that enough Christian doctors to staff the new medical schools that will shortly spring up all over China may be trained ready for the demand? It is not a question to be answered in the future. It is being answered now. Indifference and inaction now is a very definite answer. A delay of a few years will suffice to graduate enough candidates from Godless institutions abroad to fill all available institutions with instructors. The character of those who begin the work will doubtless have a large influence on the whole race of doctors who follow.

"The above principle was the secret of our being able to spare Dr. and Mrs. Wright from the work in Tak Hing, that they may have a part in the Union medical work in Canton."

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Edited by Mrs. J. S. Martin and Mrs. T. H. Acheson

PITTSBURG PRESBYTERIAL

Delegates Take Notice

To be interested in Missions we must *know* what is being done in our Missions Fields. To this end a feature of our Convention at Beaver Falls will be a

Magazine Rally.

Our Aim: OLIVE TREES in every Covenanter home in Pittsburgh Presbytery.

We ask that you bring to the Convention FIVE or more NEW subscriptions to OLIVE TREES. Also report how many subscribers in your congregation.

How many families *do not* take OLIVE TREES?

Boost OLIVE TREES.

Bring this before your society.

If each society brings FIVE NEW subscriptions it means an increase of 105.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT.

Soldiers of the Prince.

Some Things to Remember.

Dear Boys and Girls:

I wonder how many of you have ever seen a field of grain, golden ripe and ready for the harvest? The farmers go out and cut the ripe grain and store it safely in barns. Jesus tells us that "the field is the world." Men and women and little children are the grain, waiting for some one to come and tell them of a Saviour born in Bethlehem, who died on Calvary's Cross for them and rose again that they might have eternal life. Get down a map and take a look at our field. Here is India, where the mothers throw their babies into the Ganges River to be eaten by crocodiles as a sacrifice to their gods; see the islands of the sea, where men are cannibals; the land of China, which is awakening and turning from the old religion. Shall she have a new and true one? Have you heard of the awful mas-

sacres of the Armenians by the Turks? That is another part of the field and our own missionaries are at work there and in China. There is no place that is not part of the field, for even here in America many are not followers of Jesus. Christ said two thousand years ago "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest, and he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal." "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." If the grain is not reaped, then what? A missionary was telling the story of the Saviour to a man in South America. The man listened to the story of the life and death and love of Jesus, and the salvation He alone can give us. He heard and believed. Then he thought of his parents and grandparents who had never heard of the way of life. Were they lost? Had the missionary's parents known the way? "Yes," the missionary acknowledged, "they knew." "O, why, then, did they not tell my parents?" asked the man. "Why were not my parents saved?" Why? Will anyone have to ask why you did not tell the story?

You have all heard of Washington, the Father of his country, who, as commander of the American Army, was successful in the Revolutionary War. He won wonderful victories with just a few soldiers. Have you ever thought that the Lord Jesus Christ is the most wonderful commander of whom this world ever heard? Greater than Washington, Wellington or Napoleon ever were.

He is winning wonderful battles with only a few soldiers. When He went back to Heaven, He left just a few disciples to conquer the world. They did all they could, though, and think how many Christians we have today. Still the world is not all con-

quered, the harvest not all reaped. Who will enlist? The commander himself goes before to point the way, the victory is sure, the reward certain, the necessity great. Who will answer the call for volunteers?

This welfare with sin and evil is a very real one and the men who engage in it are real soldiers, even though they carry no guns. Of James Chalmers, it is said that many times he was in the greatest danger. Some cannibals sent him word one time that they would come and kill both natives and foreigners. He told them to come; he would be glad to see them. He went among them unarmed and unafraid. After many years of work he went to a new place. Here, soon after he landed, he was clubbed to death, his head cut off, and his body eaten. No soldier with a gun engages in a more real warfare or endures as great hardship.

MARY A. MCWILLIAMS.

How Much Thank-Offering Shall I Give to Women's Presbyterial Missionary Society This Year?

An Argument With Myself.

If I refuse to give an offering for missions I practically cast a ballot in favor of the recall of every missionary in the home and foreign fields.

If I give less than heretofore I favor a reduction of the missionary forces proportionate to my reduced contribution.

If I give the same as formerly I favor the ground already won, but I oppose any forward movement.

My song is—"Earth's utmost bounds shall hear and learn," yet I refuse to give liberally, to hasten the time when the whole world "will hear and learn" of the Saviour.

If I advance my offering beyond former years, then I favor an advance movement in the con-

quest of new territory for Christ. *Shall I not join this last class?* I do believe in greatly increasing the present number of our missionaries, therefore, I will increase my thank-offering to missionary work at once.

—Adapted from the *Missionary Review of the World*.

THANK-OFFERING.

The date of the Presbyterial draws nigh, and it is the earnest desire of each member of the Executive, as well as your Thank-Offering Secretary, that this meeting may be the most spiritual and truly missionary of any heretofore. Will not each missionary society, at its May meeting, make the Presbyterial Convention meeting the subject of very special prayer, and will each delegate come to the convention only after special preparation through prayer that she may bring a blessing to each of the others and in turn take a blessing home to her society. We are grateful to our Father in Heaven that He put it into the hearts of the women of this Presbyterial to support a new missionary in the great harvest field of China. Let us send her forth assured of our interest and of earnest prayer in her behalf that God will use her mightily for His own glory and for the salvation of those sisters for whom Christ died. Will each society send its Thank-Offering with one of its delegates. Place the money or check in an envelope. *Write plainly the name of the society, the amount, and the purpose for which it is intended.* If you should send a check make it payable to Mrs. W. J. Ward, treasurer.

The duplex envelopes have been prepared for next year—a sample will be presented at Presbyterial. Please instruct your delegate how many to order so that no unnecessary delay may occur.

MRS. JOHN K. TIBBY,
Thank-Offering Secretary.

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